In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for ensuring minimal error in weighing devices, comprising:

a) setting said weighing device at a zero point;

b) successively placing one or more standard test loads on said weighing device at a plurality of distinct testing positions located in about a peripheral two-thirds of a weight-receiving surface of said weighing device, said loads being measured by said weighing device at discrete instances such that said testing positions are utilized individually to measure a selected load;

c) determining weight error displayed by said weighing device at each of said testing positions;

d) summing said distinct displayed ~~measured~~ weight errors into a summed error; and

e) comparing said summed error to a desired tolerance level, such that weighing devices exhibiting summed errors in excess of said tolerance level may be identified as being in need of corrective action, including calibration.

2. (original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said testing positions are substantially equidistant from one another, and distributed substantially evenly about said weight-receiving surface.

3. (original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein a common said selected test load is utilized at each of said testing positions.

4. (original) A method as in Claim 3 wherein said selected test load is one-fourth to one-half of the designated weight capacity of said weighing device.

5. (original) A method as in Claim 4 wherein said selected test load is one-third of the designated weight capacity of said weighing device.

6. (original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said standard test loads are successively placed at at least four of said distinct testing positions.

7. (original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said testing positions are located between a center point of said weight-receiving surface and respective outer corners of said weight-receiving surface.

8. (original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said tolerance level is one-half of a standard maintenance tolerance.

9. (original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said tolerance level is between a positive two scale division error and a negative error.

10. (original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said weighing device is a Class III scale.

11. (original) A method as in Claim 1, including one or more of the steps consisting of:

a) leveling said weighing device with leveling means;

b) cleaning said weighing device, particularly under said weight-receiving surface of said weighing device;

c) visually inspecting or passing a thin tool between said weight-receiving surface and a housing of said weighing device to ensure that said weighing device is free from obstructions which could impede its operational functions; and

d) repairing or replacing broken or missing elements of said weighing device.

12. (original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said calibration includes utilizing a 2000 division weight range to obtain a desired tolerance level.

13. (currently amended) A method for minimizing error in weighing devices, comprising:

a) setting said weighing device at a zero point;

b) successively placing one or more standard test loads on said weighing device at a plurality of distinct testing positions located in about a peripheral two-thirds of a weight-receiving surface of said weighing device, said loads being measured by said weighing device at discrete instances such that said testing positions are utilized individually to measure a selected load;

c) determining a measurement error displayed by said weighing device at each of said testing positions;

d) summing said displayed measurement errors into a summed error;

e) comparing said summed ~~measurement~~ error to a desired tolerance level, such that weighing devices exhibiting measurement errors in excess of said tolerance level undergo one or more corrective actions, said corrective actions being selected from one or more of the group consisting of:

i) leveling said weighing device with leveling means;

ii) cleaning said weighing device, particularly under said weight-receiving surface of said weighing device;

iii) visually inspecting or passing a thin tool between said weight-receiving surface, and a housing

of said weighing device to ensure that said weighing device is free from obstructions which could impede its operational functions; and

iv) repairing or replacing broken or missing elements of said weighing device.

14. (original) A method as in Claim 13 wherein said testing positions are substantially equidistant from one another, and distributed substantially evenly about said weight-receiving surface.

15. (original) A method as in Claim 13 wherein said selected test load is one-fourth to one-half of the designated weight capacity of said weighing device.